

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions,  
and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-13. (canceled)

~~14.~~ (previously presented) A method of fabricating a  
gasket for a high-temperature joint comprising the steps of:

filling a heat-resistant filler in a state of an aqueous  
solution mainly composed of any of diatomaceous earth, synthetic  
mica and a mixture thereof into gaps of any one of a pre-formed  
meshed metallic reinforcing member and a pre-formed woollike  
metallic reinforcing member;

forming a gasket basic substance by solidifying said  
heat-resistant filler according to a thixotropic phenomenon and by  
drying subsequently;

covering a surface of said gasket basic substance with a  
heat-resistant antifriction material mainly composed of any of  
boron nitride, polytetrafluoroethylene resin and a mixture  
thereof; and

forming said gasket basic substance into predetermined  
dimensions and shape.

~~15.~~ (previously presented) The method of fabricating a  
gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim ~~14~~, wherein

said aqueous solution of said heat-resistant filler mainly composed of diatomaceous earth, synthetic mica or a mixture thereof is composed of total 100 wt% in combination with water within 85 wt%, any of diatomaceous earth, synthetic mica and a mixture thereof within 20 wt%, and synthetic bentonite within 5 wt%.

<sup>6</sup> 16. (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim <sup>1</sup>14, wherein said reinforcing member and said aqueous solution of any of the heat-resistant filler and the heat-resistant antifriction material are severally deaerated under reduced pressure atmosphere and then said reinforcing member is immersed into said aqueous solution under reduced pressure atmosphere in said step of filling any of said heat-resistant filler and said heat-resistant antifriction material in the state of said aqueous solution into said gaps of the metallic reinforcing member.

<sup>3</sup> 17. (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim <sup>2</sup>15, wherein said reinforcing member and said aqueous solution of any of the heat-resistant filler and the heat-resistant antifriction material are severally deaerated under reduced pressure atmosphere and then said reinforcing member is immersed into said aqueous solution under reduced pressure atmosphere in said step of filling any of said heat-resistant filler and said heat-resistant antifriction

material in the state of said aqueous solution into said gaps of the metallic reinforcing member.

~~18-21.~~ (canceled)

~~22.~~ (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim ~~14~~, wherein said meshed metallic reinforcing member is made of metallic wires.

~~23.~~ (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim ~~15~~, wherein said meshed metallic reinforcing member is made of metallic wires.

~~24.~~ (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim ~~16~~, wherein said meshed metallic reinforcing member is made of metallic wires.

~~25.~~ (previously presented) The method of fabricating a gasket for a high-temperature joint according to claim ~~17~~, wherein said meshed metallic reinforcing member is made of metallic wires.

~~26.~~ (canceled)